

REMARKS

The Office Action of May 10, 2002 has been carefully considered. In response thereto, the specification and claims have been amended as set forth above. Reconsideration and allowance of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and the present remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been amended to correct the informality noted in the Office Action.

Claims 1-15 were rejected as being anticipated by or unpatentable over Petras et al.

The present invention was made prior to the filing date (Dec. 24, 1997) of the Petras et al. application. In particular, the specification has been amended to claim priority of U.S. Provisional Application 60/036,047, filed January 27, 1997, nearly one year prior to the filing of the Petras et al. application. On this basis, Applicant submits that Petras et al. is not prior art.

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No. 1527 P. 9/12

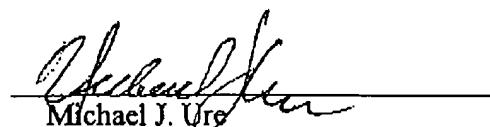
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Attorney's Docket No. ED6/14/99US

Page 4

Allowance of the present application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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